

In October 2002, President Bush signed the “Health Care Safety Net Amendments” legislation (PL. 107-251, S. 1533). It reauthorizes and strengthens the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) to recognize Health Centers funded under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike, Rural Health Clinics, and Indian Health Clinics, who agree to render service regardless of ability to pay as Automatic Facility HPSA Designations.

The exact definition on the federal web page is:

### **Introduction**

The Health Care Safety Net Amendments of 2002 provided for automatic facility HPSA status for all Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and those Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) that meet the requirement of providing access to care regardless of ability to pay.

Note that FQHCs as used herein includes several types of FQHCs:

- (a) Health Centers (HCs) funded under Section 330 of the PHS Act;
- (b) FQHC “Look-Alikes” (or FQHCLAs) that have been identified by HRSA and certified by CMS as meeting the definition of a Health Center in Section 330, although they do not receive grant funding; and
- (c) outpatient health programs/facilities operated by tribal organizations (under the Indian Self-Determination Act) or urban Indian organizations (under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act).

All then-currently-qualified FQHCs were given HPSA status as of the date of the legislation; new FQHCs receive HPSA status on the date on which they become FQHCs, based either on Section 330 funding or on certification as an FQHC Look-Alike. Each FQHC is HPSA-designated as an entity, encompassing all service locations included in the approved scope of work.

Please read through our FAQs for further information, or for the entire Federal description and methodology please visit: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/autoscore.htm>